

Fair; much colder to-
night and Friday; fresh
westerly winds.

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CHRISTMAS DAY IN WASHINGTON

Arduous Duties of Officials
Laid Aside and Questions
of State Side-tracked for
Twenty-four Hours.

All Members of the Presi-
dent's Family Gather at
the White House—The
Day in the Legations.

Official Washington is celebrating to-
day in the same old time-honored man-
ner.

The arduous duties of official life have
been laid aside for the day. Venezuela
is apparently out of the thoughts of all
except a few of those representatives
of the Government who have been strug-
gling with the many intricate diplomatic
problems involved; the huge army of
the department clerks are at their
homes, and except for a few watchers on
duty at the business houses of Uncle
Sam, ready, if the occasion demands, to
call upon their chiefs to meet some un-
looked for emergency, the machinery of
the Government has been stopped for the
Christmas festivities.

At the White House.

The President and Mrs. Roosevelt
have all their children with them today.
Young Theodore returned from New
York for the holidays and Miss Ethel
and Quentin are home from their re-
spective schools. For days express wa-
gons have been calling at the White
House leaving gifts for the President,
Mrs. Roosevelt, and the children—pres-
ents of all kinds and from all parts of
the country.

The younger Roosevelt children, Archie
and Quentin, hung up their stockings
last night in order that they might be
filled by Santa Claus. The giving of gifts
which took place in the morning, was not
confined to the President's family, for
Mrs. Roosevelt has remembered each
one of her small army of servants, many
of whom have been employed at the
White House since the days of Lincoln
and have treasured Christmas remem-
brances from each of the Presidents of
the United States who have celebrated
Christmas since the trying days of the
civil war.

Among the Christmas gifts for Mrs.
Roosevelt was a gold purse, presented
by the women of the Cabinet. It is of
gold mesh, with the clasp studded with
diamonds and sapphires.

No Christmas Tree.

There was no Christmas tree. After
the exchange of presents the whole fam-
ily went to Captain Cowles' house for
lunch. In the afternoon Mr. and Mrs.
Roosevelt went horseback riding. Dinner
will be served this evening in the State
dining room and the guests will be Sen-
ator Lodge and Mrs. Lodge, Captain and
Mrs. Cowles, Mr. Elliott, of New York,
Charles Henry Davis, Miss Davis, and
the Messrs. Davis. The President's gift
to the White House employees was a
turkey to each.

The Secretary of State and Mrs. Hay
are spending Christmas at their beau-
tiful home in this city. Their daughter,
Mrs. James Wadsworth, Jr., Mr. Wad-
sworth, and the Secretary of State's
youngest son, Clarence, are spending
Christmas with the Hays.

The Secretary of the Navy, William
Henry Moody, is spending Christmas
with some friends in New York city.
Secretary of War Root is also in New
York, spending Christmas day with Mrs.
Root and Edith Root. Secretary of the
Interior Hitchcock is at his home in this
city. The other members of the Cabinet
are with their families in this city.

In the Legations.

Christmas was observed according to
the varying national customs at the for-
eign legations. At the Russian embassy
the celebration was preliminary to that
of the Russian Christmas, which is the
Christmas of the Greek church, and does
not arrive until twelve days after the
Christmas celebrated by the rest of the
world.

WEATHER CONDITIONS.

The cold wave has increased in intensi-
ty in the Northwest and has extended
eastward and southward into the north-
ern portion of the southern slope, and
through the central valleys, the upper
lake and eastern lower lake regions.

Snows have been general from the up-
per Mississippi valley eastward, except in
northern New England.

There will be snow tonight in the
greater portion of the lower lake region,
New York, and northeastern Pennsylv-
ania, and probably rain on the Virginia
and Carolina coasts.

Elsewhere tonight and Friday the
weather will be generally fair in the
East and South.

It will be much colder in the middle
Atlantic States tonight and Friday.

On the middle Atlantic coast variable
winds will become west and fresh.

Steamers departing today for European
ports will have variable winds with snow,
becoming westerly and brisk Friday to
the Grand Banks.

TEMPERATURE.

3 a. m. 30
10 a. m. 31
12 p. m. 32

THE SUN.

Sun sets today 4:45 p. m.
Sun rises tomorrow 7:18 a. m.

TIDE TABLE.

High tide today 5:10 p. m.
Low tide today 11:52 p. m.
High tide tomorrow 5:51 a. m.
Low tide tomorrow 12:04 p. m.

"A THOROUGH NEWSPAPER."

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

The steady improvement in THE WASHINGTON TIMES is a matter of
general remark and commendation. It is a thorough newspaper, and is edited with
discrimination and ability. I read it every evening with great interest and profit.

Henry L. West
Commissioner of the
District of Columbia.

CHOICE BEEF WITHIN PURSE OF THE POOR

Price Four Cents Lower
Than in Summer.

CHICAGO, Dec. 25.—Beef prices have
taken a tumble, and choice cuts are now
within the reach of all.

Prices are 1 cent a pound lower than
in the summer months, and have been
for ninety days. If the retailers are
maintaining the old scale they are
molesting their customers, say repre-
sentatives of the packing house industries.

The ranges in all sections of the big
feeding districts are plentifully stocked
with high grades cattle, and there is no
danger of any scarcity for months to
come, the packers say. The packers also
say the big drop in prices has not in the
slightest degree been brought about by
the Government proceedings against the
alleged beef trust; that the changes for
the benefit of the consumer are due to
supply and demand causes exclusively.

"At the present cost," said Arthur
Meeker, of Armour & Co., "the poor man
can better afford beef than ever before.
Since about three months ago we have
been selling carcasses to retailers at
about 4 cents a pound less than the cost
in the middle of the summer."

"Pork and mutton are also cheaper.
The reason for the drop is the lower cost
of beef on the hoof. We are now buy-
ing cattle at 5 cents per pound, as com-
pared with 8 cents in the summer."

ALLEGED PLOT TO STEAL BENJ. HARRISON'S BODY

Letter Tells Scheme Planned
by Ghouls.

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., Dec. 25.—In a
letter received yesterday by the police
superintendent, a detailed story of a plot
to rob the grave of former President
Benjamin Harrison was given by a man
named Wallace Simms, and the police
are now looking for the writer, and are
to investigate the matter.

The letter states that Rufus Cantrel,
now under indictment for stealing a
large number of bodies, was to rob the
grave of the ex-President and convey
the body to the office of a local physi-
cian. A rumor of theft was then to be
put in circulation, and after it was con-
firmed by the opening of the grave, it
was supposed that a reward would be
offered by the family. After the reward
was offered the body was to be taken
to the country and found by Cantrel,
who would then claim the reward.

ANARCHISTS SENT BACK TO AMERICA FROM ROME

LONDON, Dec. 25.—A dispatch to the
"Standard" from Rome says that sev-
eral anarchists, who were expelled from
the United States, have arrived at
Genoa. They were immediately placed
under police surveillance and will be
sent back to America.

PHILIPPINE TARIFF A SUBJECT OF COMPLAINT

England and Germany Inti-
mate Bad Faith.

EXPORT DUTY ON HEMP

Almost Prohibitive Rate for Germany,
Formerly Largest Consumer.
Open Door a Myth.

Vigorous protests have been made by
Great Britain and Germany to the State
Department against the course which the
United States is pursuing in the Philip-
pines in regard to export duties.

These governments charge that the
United States is acting contrary to its
declared policy of the open door in the
islands, and they strongly intimate bad
faith on the part of the United States.
These protests have been transmitted to
the Senate Philippines Committee, and
are to be considered in connection with
the bill which has passed the House to
reduce the Philippine tariff from 75 per
cent to 25 per cent of the Dingley
schedule.

Duty on Hemp.

The Philippine Commission in its tariff
act, among other things, imposed an ex-
port duty on hemp, but this duty is re-
mitted where the hemp is brought to the
United States, and it is here admitted
free of duty. The effect of this is that
the rope manufacturer in the United
States obtains his Manila hemp about
\$7.50 per ton cheaper than his competi-
tor in England and Germany. Spain com-
ing in under the most favored nation
clause of the Paris Treaty of Peace is
accorded the same privilege as the
United States, but neither England nor
Germany is concerned in that respect, for
Spain is not an extensive manufacturer
of rope.

Germany, in her note to the State De-
partment, declares that she rests her
claim on the principle of equal treatment
for all nations, a principle which the
United States has always heretofore in-
voked in Eastern Asia as well as else-
where. The fact is cited that hemp which
is exported to Germany pays an export
tax of \$75 per 100 kilos, while no tax is
exactied upon the hemp sent to the
United States.

In this way the trade in hemp is di-
verted from England and Germany—be-
fore the Spanish-American war large
purchasers of Manila hemp—to the
United States. Germany asks that the
advantages which the United States has
been extended to her.

Engishmen Act.

In England the matter was first
brought to the attention of the govern-
ment by the Association of Chambers of
Commerce of the United Kingdom, which
addressed the Marquis of Lansdowne on
the subject. The result was a note ad-
dressed to our State Department, in
which attention was called to the effect
which the tax had upon the rope indus-
try in England, and the fact that the
Manila hemp which formerly went to
England is now shipped to manufactur-
ers in the United States.

Secretary Hay diplomatically referred
these protests to Secretary Root, be-
cause of the fact that the government of
the Philippines comes directly under the
War Department's authority. Secretary
Root shifted the responsibility upon
Congress and there it now rests, and
the Republican leaders are struggling to
find a way out of the difficulty.

CREW THROWN INTO RIVER BY UPSETTING OF TOWBOAT

Number Drowned Not Known—Boats
Make Every Effort to Res-
cue Men.

PITTSBURGH, Pa., Dec. 25.—The tow-
boat Margaret upset in the Allegheny
River opposite the foot of Eighth Street
yesterday. The entire crew was on board
at the time of the accident. How many
are drowned is not yet known.

Boats went at once to the rescue and
all efforts possible were made to save
the men. Just how the accident was
caused has not been learned. The boat
is owned by the Rogers Sand Company.
It has been used to tow sand dredge
boats, and a number of men were em-
ployed on it.

VENEZUELA LAUGHS AT COAST BLOCKADE

TYPICAL CHRISTMAS WEATHER PREDICTED

Clear Skies Will Prevail
Throughout Holidays.

The slight fall of snow last night and
early this morning, which gave to the
city a typical Christmas attire, will sus-
pend further action for at least forty-
eight hours, according to the reports of
the Weather Bureau.

Although the storm was not a serious
one, it was sufficient to cloak the city
in a white mantle, thus adding an im-
portant feature of the day. For years
and years, snow and Christmas have al-
ways been associated, and the subse-
quent nuisance that the falling flakes
cause is discounted by the cheer which
it brings.

There was a fall last night of about
two or three inches, merely enough to
cover the ground with a thin layer. Be-
fore noon today the gray, ominous-look-
ing clouds broke, and the storm disap-
peared. The weather tonight and to-
morrow is scheduled to be clear and
colder. From present indications, clear
skies will prevail throughout the holi-
days.

In the Western States, the fall of snow
has been rather heavy, and has delayed
train service in the mountainous regions.
In fact, railroad traffic is always more or
less delayed at this season of the year
because of the heavy traffic and express.
As a result of the storm, however, ad-
ditional inconvenience is caused by slip-
pery rails. Trains from the West for
Washington reached here from ten min-
utes to four or five hours behind sched-
ule time last night and this morning. The
local storm, which went no farther than
Virginia, had no serious effect on rail-
road traffic.

MANY PERSONS INJURED IN THREE TRAIN WRECKS

Pennsylvania Limited Tele-
scopes an Accommodation

PITTSBURGH, Pa., Dec. 25.—The Penn-
sylvania Limited, running at hour late,
crashed into the rear end of the Leaca-
dale accommodation at Quaker Valley
Station, telescoping the smaller train,
and carrying it along almost half a mile,
last evening.

Of the many persons injured, the most
seriously hurt were:
Charles Hopkins, of Leedale, badly
mangled, and will die.
John B. Carson, of Sewickley, nose
broken and badly cut.
John Stritzmeyer, of Newcastle, both
legs fractured.
H. T. Potter, bruised, and cut about
the head.
M. T. Joyce, Leedale, right leg broken
and badly cut by glass.

The limited was not damaged, except
that the front of the engine was dis-
abled.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., Dec. 25.—Six per-
sons were injured, several of them
seriously, in a collision between an elec-
tric car and "Big Four" freight train
on a trestle here some time before day-
break.

The electric car was thrown from the
trestle to the ground, a distance of eight-
een feet. The collision was due to a
misunderstanding of signals.

ROGERS, Neb., Dec. 25.—A dozen pas-
sengers and trainmen were injured in
a collision between the Colorado Special
and a freight train on the Union Pa-
cific Railroad here before dawn today.
The freight, eastbound, was about to
take a siding when the passenger train,
westbound, crashed into it head-on.

AWAIT DECISION IN A \$750,000 ESTATE

MEDIA, Pa., Dec. 25.—Judge Johnson
has before him the testimony and has
heard the argument from which he must
determine whether or not he will grant
an issue on the estate of Eneine De-
shong, who left \$750,000.

The greater bulk of the estate was
left to Clarence and Alfred Deshong,
the daughter, Mrs. Louise D. Wood-
bridge, being cut off with \$70,000.

Mrs. Woodbridge contends that Alfred
poisoned her mother's mind against her,
and she asked that an issue be granted
and the facts heard before a jury.
John G. Johnson, O. B. Dickinson, and
W. Roger Fronsfield represent Mrs.
Woodbridge, and William B. Broomall,
John B. Hannum, and V. Gilpin Robin-
son the will and the Deshong boys.
Mrs. Woodbridge alleges that she was
deprived of seeing her mother after the
death of her brother, John O. Deshong,
who left a large estate, which was
inherited by the mother, Mrs. Emeline
Deshong.

German Paper Says More
Drastic Measure Alone Will
Cause Distress in Repub-
lic and Bring It to Terms.

Rebels Reply to Castro That
Gen. Matos Alone Is Cap-
able of Dealing With the
Situation.

Dutch Steamer Refuses to
Pay Port Dues at La Guaira
and Departs — President
Has Reached No Decision.

BERLIN, Dec. 25.—The "Lokalanzei-
ger" prints a La Guaira dispatch stating
that it is confirmed on all sides that the
revolution is making progress. The
movement, however, lacks unity and is
without a leader.

The dispatch adds that it seems
scarcely possible that the blockade will
produce hunger and distress in the coun-
try. Therefore months may pass before
discontent gains sufficient strength to
cause President Castro's deposition.
More drastic measures would soon
achieve this end. It is Castro alone who
opposes the payment of Venezuela's
debts.

The blockade principally injures the
foreign commercial community. The
Venezuelans scarcely speak of it. The
minister of foreign affairs laughs at it.
He considers measures of defense super-
fluous, but declares that landing parties
from the warships would be most deter-
minedly resisted.

The levies initiated by the government
are mostly carried out by methods of
compulsion that are intended to assist
the anti-revolutionary struggle. All
beasts of burden, including those belong-
ing to Germans, have been requisitioned
by the government. They are required
for the transportation of ammunition
and food supplies.

REBELS SAY MATOS ALONE CAN DEAL WITH SITUATION

WILLEMSTEDT, Curacao, Dec. 25.—The
Venezuelan insurgents have replied to
President Castro's invitation to combine
with the government against the enemies
of Venezuela, saying General Matos is
the only Venezuelan leader who is ca-
pable of dealing with the situation.

DUTCH STEAMER ARRIVES AT LA GUAIRA AND DEPARTS

LONDON, Dec. 25.—A dispatch from
La Guaira says the Dutch steamer Prinz
Willem arrived there yesterday.
The usual formalities were observed.
The agent refused to pay the port dues
and the steamer sailed for Trinidad
without communicating with the shore.

GERMAN CRUISER PREPARING TO GO TO VENEZUELA

BERLIN, Dec. 25.—It is reported that
the cruiser Superba is preparing at
Kiel, and that she will sail for Vene-
zuela at the end of the month.

PRESIDENT HAS NOT YET ACCEPTED AS ARBITRATOR

Secretary of State Hay was a visitor
at the White House today. After his
departure it was announced that his visit
had a bearing on the Venezuelan situa-
tion, but that the President had as yet
reached no decision relative to the ques-
tion of arbitration, and that he was still
in correspondence with the powers.
Additional details could not at this
time be made public, Mr. Hay said.

"WOULD SOLVE LABOR PROBLEM IN HAWAII"

Thomas Fortune Would Colonize With
True Southern Negro.

HONOLULU, Dec. 15.—Thomas For-
tune, supplemented by Secretary Shaw to
investigate the conditions in Hawaii and
the Philippines, has arrived here. In an
interview he said:

"I believe that the importation of the
true negro into Hawaii forms a natural
solution of the labor problem in the
islands."
He expressed the belief that the
labor needed could be secured if the
sort of agents were sent to the So-
uth States. This suggestion has many
more favor here, and it is probable
an organized effort will be made to
secure negro laborers.

TRAIN STRIKES BUGGY, KILLS BOY AND HORSE

Another Lad Terribly Injured, But
Still Alive.

BUFFALO, N. Y., Dec. 25.—This morn-
ing train No. 102 on the Pennsylvania
Railroad, which left Buffalo at 7
o'clock, struck a buggy at a crossing
at Blawie, about two miles south of
East Aurora. The rig contained two
boys, each about fifteen years old, and
a horse. The buggy was smashed, the
horse killed. One of the boys was
killed, the other was terribly injured,
but is alive.